

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT FEDERATION OF RHODE ISLAND

Educate, Advocate, Communicate

January 2018

Dear Principals and Administrators:

In three weeks your school community can send a shock wave across Rhode Island and it is as simple and easy as attending a meeting. Strength in numbers is nothing new, but the importance right now is the timing of this show of strength. On January 24, 2018, Catholic School families are invited to attend a School Choice discussion in Providence led by a Senior Policy Analyst from the National Heritage Foundation, Jonathan Butcher. Jonathan will be speaking about the benefits of expanded parental choice in Rhode Island, which could directly impact every Catholic school in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Catholic School Parent Federation is working towards expanded parental choice in RI in the form of an increase to the cap on the RI Corporate Tax Credit from \$1.5 to \$5.0 million dollars. This would ensure increased availability of funding for Catholic education in RI. This issue was in the State Legislature last year and I believe the only reason it did not advance was the impression that it had no support from the general public, or our constituents.

Since the State Legislature can raise the cap, a strong showing on this issue from Catholic school families is important. This can send a powerful sign to the Legislature, and public at large, that families care about enabling educational choice in Rhode Island. We need to keep this issue on the Legislative radar as their 2018 session is just beginning.

I respectfully request that you encourage 5 people from your school community to attend this important meeting. They could be parents or guardians, grandparents, teachers, or friends of your school community. This public statement will demonstrate to the State Legislature how important this issue is to so many families. The event is on Wednesday, January 24, 2018. It is a program targeting school parents from 6-8 PM at the Providence Hebrew Day School at 450 Elmgrove Avenue in Providence. The school is just off Hope Street and next to Brown Stadium so it is very easy to get to from the West or East Bay.

I know that "free time" is so precious to families (my weeknights are packed with my children's activities), but this might be the easiest and most educational couple of hours that parents could attend in 2018. Many people don't always know what they can do or should do and I feel very strongly this is a great opportunity for many families to not only learn more about School Choice in Rhode Island, but potentially find a cause they can join and support.

In addition, your schools are invited to participate in our Annual Legislative Reception on Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 2-5PM at the State House. Won't you join us in making our presence visible at the seat of State government? If you have not registered your school to attend the event at the State House, please contact the Catholic School Office today.

Your most direct method of contact for matters related to expanded parental choice in education would be Ed Bastia in the Catholic School Office especially if you would like more details about either event. However, I am available by phone in the evening at 401-447-0329 should you wish to speak to me directly. I look forward to the support of your school communities as we build a coalition for Catholic education in the future.

Sincerely,



Matthew Fitzgerald, President
Rhode Island Catholic School Parent Federation
www.catholicsschoolparentsri.org.